

Remarks

Claims 26-30 and 40 are pending in the application. Claims 1-25 and 31-39 have been withdrawn.

Drawing Objections

Fig. 7 was objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for not indicating the ceiling 46 and floor 44 structures. Fig. 7 previously incorrectly identified the ceiling with the numeral 48 and the floor with the numeral 46. A replacement figure is submitted herewith that includes the correct numeric references for the ceiling and floor. No new matter has been added.

The drawings were also objected to for not illustrating a third layer (e.g., an internal finished layer) which is recited in claim 30. New Fig. 12 is submitted herewith illustrating an embodiment of the invention with a third layer. The other structures in the new Fig. 12 are described in the specification and illustrated in the other figures, and are supported by at least paragraphs [0046]-[0048]. A corresponding amendment has been made to the specification to reference the new drawing and to add a short description of Fig. 12. This is supported by paragraph [0048].

It is respectfully submitted that no new matter has been introduced.

§112 Claim Rejections

Claims 26-30 and 40 have been rejected under 35 USC §112 as being indefinite. The Office Action references claim 30 in one of the rejections. However, it is believed that the rejection was intended for claim 28. Claim 28 has been amended to replace the language “which is able to extend” to “extending”. This clearly defines the scope of the claim.

Claim 40 has been amended to specify the assembly as the “transparent assembly” in lines 4-5.

The Office Action states that it is not clear how the reinforcement pieces referred to in line 5 of claim 40 can be part of the wall-reinforcement assembly in claim 26 as well as the transparent assembly in claim 40. Applicant respectfully submits that claim 40 is clear. There are two groups of reinforcement pieces. One group of reinforcement pieces is part of the transparent assembly and the second group of reinforcement pieces is part of the wall-

reinforcement assembly. The language of claim 40 clearly links the groups with the proper assembly. This is shown in Fig. 11 where the reinforcement pieces of the wall-reinforcement assembly are delineated by the number 98 and the reinforcement pieces of the transparent assembly are shown as the smaller straps attached to the transparent panel 90 and the subframe 92.

Claim 26 was rejected based on the term “high tensile strength” being considered to be indefinite. Applicant believes that a person skilled in the art would readily understand what materials would be deemed to be “high” tensile strength given that the patent application is directed to impact resistant structures for buildings. A person of ordinary skill in the art would readily appreciate that the phrase “high tensile strength flexible material reinforcement pieces” when used for structures that are likely to be exposed to impact loads, such as explosions, refers to particular types of materials. The specification provides an example that the reinforcement pieces can be Kevlar[®] material (See, Paragraph [0032]), which is documented to have a tensile strength of 3,620 Mpa. It is well known that aramid material generally has similar high tensile strength properties. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that, a skilled person in the art would, upon review of the application as a whole, be able to ascertain the scope of the phrase “high tensile strength” as it is used in claim 26.

Claim 27 has been rejected as being indefinite due to the use of the term “strong”. Applicant has amended claim 27 to recite that the reinforcement pieces are attached to a rigid part of the floor and/or the ceiling. The term “rigid” is well understood to mean a structurally solid component. As such, that term functions as a definite structural limitation of the claim. Accordingly, Applicant submits that amended claim 27 is definite.

Claim 28 was rejected based on the use of the trademark Kevlar. Applicant has amended claim 28 to recite to the material being an aramid material, which is the material associated with the Kevlar mark. See, paragraph [0032].

§102 Rejections

Claims 26-30 have been rejection under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 6,161,462 (Michaelson). The Examiner has asserted that Michaelson includes all the features of these claims. Specifically, the Examiner has taken the position that Michaelson

discloses a structure as claimed that includes a wall with an adjacent floor and ceiling (item 12 in Michaelson).

Michaelson is directed to “law enforcement vehicles” and, specifically, to a temporary, removable bulletproof shield that is draped on a car. This is completely contrary to the intended structural construction of the present invention. As stated in paragraphs [0043] and [0044] of the present application, the invention is a wall-reinforcement assembly for part of a building structure. In order to clarify the structural nature of the invention, claim 26 has been amended to recite that the wall reinforcement assembly is for a wall of a building structure that has an adjacent floor and ceiling. This clearly differentiates the claimed structure of the invention from the bulletproof drape in Michaelson.

Moreover, the structural design of the present invention is intended to mitigate the transfer of impact forces generated by an explosion. In Michaelson, the extensions 56 include magnets 58 that are the only connection to the underlying car. Those connections would not be applicable for securing a wall-reinforcement assembly to a wall of a building. Also, Michaelson is not a “wall-reinforcement assembly” since it is not *reinforcing* any wall. It is merely a cover or drape that acts as a first layer that a bullet will hit. There is no reinforcement of any structure provided by Michaelson.

Accordingly, based on the foregoing, claim 26 and dependent claims 27-30 are not anticipated by Michaelson. Furthermore, in light of the completely different uses and structural connections, it would not have been obvious to modify Michaelson to make the drape attachable to a building. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §102 rejection of these claims is respectfully requested.

§103 Rejection

Claim 40 has been rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over Michaelson in view of US Patent No. 3,843,193 (Krings). Krings has been cited by the Examiner as disclosing a transparent window panel that is non-rigidly secured to a structure via flexible material reinforcement pieces.

As noted above, Michaelson does not include all the structural features of claim 26, including that the assembly is attached to a wall of a building. Krings failed to remedy that basic

deficiency in Michaelson. As with Michaelson, Krings relates to a windshield pane in the frame of the body of a vehicle, such as an automobile or airplane. This has nothing to do with and is completely diverse from the building structure of the present invention. A person skilled in the art would not combine Michaelson, which relates to drapes for law enforcement vehicles, and Krings, which relates to windshield panes for automobiles or airplanes, to arrive at the invention recited in claim 40 for a wall of a building.

In light of the above, claim 40 is patentable over the combination of Michaelson and Krings. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the §103 rejection of claim 40 is respectfully requested.

Based on the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that all the current pending claims are patentable over the cited prior art references. Accordingly, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of the claims is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner have any questions or comments regarding Applicant's amendments or response, the Examiner is asked to contact Applicant's representative Gregory Lavorgna at (215) 988-3309.

Respectfully submitted,

James Hamilton Erskine

BY: 

Robert C. Cannuscio
Registration No. 36,469
Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP
One Logan Square
18th and Cherry Streets
Philadelphia, PA 19103-6996
Tel: (215) 988-3309
Fax: (215) 988-2757
Attorney for Applicants